

Friends of Mark Twain Dog Park

(FOMERLY ROAM)

Master Plan – Version 1

July 2018



Questions or Comments may be submitted via
email to marktwaindogpark@gmail.com,
visit our website at www.marktwaindogpark.com
or contact any board member listed inside this document.

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Introduction & Overview

The Mark Twain dog park was established in 2008 by the Royal Oak Animal Mission (ROAM) members. ROAM worked hand in hand with the city to identify property formerly occupied by the Mark Twain Elementary School to be designated as a dog park. The property is owned by the city of Royal Oak.

Once the land was identified the ROAM members worked diligently to raise money to purchase materials to fence the approximately five acres of the current dog park that is being utilized today. The remaining two acres consist of wooded trails for the members.

Many of the original ROAM members are no longer active with the park. Based on this the Friends of Mark Twain Dog Park was established to continue the efforts of ROAM and work with the city to make this a dog park that Royal Oak would be proud of.

There are currently over 300 paying members of the dog park. This park is used 365 days a year rain or shine. There are approximately 50 daily users of this park making this one of the most utilized parks in the city. This park is critical to the community to promote a healthy and safe space for dogs to be off-leash.

Mission Statement: Friends of the Mark Twain (formerly ROAM) dog park is a group of park members who want to ensure a safe, clean environment for dog owners to enjoy. We believe in a positive, healthy, community experience for dogs and owners.

The Friends of Mark Twain Dog Park are presenting this Master Plan to:

- Be recognized as an independent entity working to foster a collaborative relationship with the city
- Define roles and responsibilities of the park members and City of Royal Oak
- Outline recommendations for improvements to address current issues and future enhancements

Introduction & Overview

Meeting Cadence: The Friends of Mark Twain dog park will hold general member meetings on the 2nd Sunday of every month, weather permitting. Meetings will be held from 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM at the dog park, weather permitting. Meeting dates and location will be posted on the Friends of Mark Twain dog park Facebook page at least one week PRIOR to the meeting date.

Meeting Date	Make-up Date
July 8, 2018	July 15, 2018
August 12, 2018	August 19, 2018
September 10, 2018	September 17, 2018
October 8, 2018	October 15, 2018
November 12, 2018	November 19, 2018
December 10, 2018	December 17, 2018
January 14, 2019	January 21, 2019
February 11, 2019	February 18, 2019
March 11, 2019	March 18, 2019
April 8, 2019	April 15, 2019

Roles & responsibilities: To ensure the future success and collaboration between park members and the city it is important to establish an understanding of roles and responsibilities. Currently the member fees paid by park members goes to the city of Royal Oak to pay for the following:

- Water during summer months
- Electricity for the lights
- Pet waste removal including replenishment of disposal bags via a private company
- Fence maintenance

As a city park the city also is responsible for mowing the park and parking lot snow removal.

The park members are responsible for:

- Enforcing and respecting dog park rules (see appendix E)
- Fundraising for future improvements
- Additional park maintenance not covered by the city

Membership Cost

City of Royal Oak residents pay \$40 per year and non-residents pay \$65 per year for park membership. Based on current membership (*i.e.* 259 residents and 59 non-residents) the park generates \$13,545 of income per year.

Proposed Projects



Project Implementation Plan: The following table breaks down the areas of work to be accomplished with specific action item time frames. Timeframe for completing the task:

- Immediate = within one year
- Short = 1 to 5 years
- Long =5+ years (July 2023 and beyond)
- On-going

Action Item	Impact	Time Frame	Comments - Status
<i>Create website to field member questions & complaints</i>	<i>Communication</i>	<i>Immediate</i>	COMPLETED
<i>Clean up the dedication brick area</i>	<i>Park maintenance</i>	<i>Immediate</i>	COMPLETED
New pet waste removal provider	Pet health & cleanliness	Immediate	<i>In Progress</i> = see current issues page
Fence the north side property line with 6-foot fence	Safety	Immediate	<i>This would then negate the need for the back-gate fob access to be repaired</i>
Have a functional & secure back gate	Safety	Immediate	<i>See current issues page</i>
Add commercial solar lights at back of park	Safety	Immediate	<i>See current issues page Cost to for lights & member installation would be under \$500.</i>
Spread pea gravel in the parking area	Safety & people friendly	Immediate	
Update code of conduct and park rules to be consistent	Safety & communication	Immediate	
Designated seat on the Parks & Rec Advisory Committee	Communication	Immediate	

Proposed Projects

Action Item	Impact	Time Frame	Comments - Status
Improve drainage	Pet health	Short	<i>See current issues page</i>
Purchase and install a tool shed to store equipment and supplies	Park maintenance	Short	
Earmark a portion (i.e. set amount or percentage) of the membership fees to be used for park improvements	Park maintenance	Short	
Figure out a way to allow households to have more than one 'fob'	People friendly	Short	
Create marketing materials to promote park membership and use with social media	Marketing	Short	
Repair the back fence at property line of the dog park and the Auto parts store	Safety	Short	
Work with city to link our website on their page	Communication	Short	
Agility equipment for the dogs	Dog friendly	Long	
Some type of shade structure – gazebo, pavilion or fabric shade	People friendly	Long	
Remove sports equipment	Dog & people friendly	Long	
Voting seat on seat on the Parks & Rec Advisory Committee	Communication	Long	

Appendix G: Proposed By-laws

Action Item	Impact	Time Frame	Comments - Status
Clean up down trees in the nature center	Safety, people & dog friendly	On-going	<i>See current issues page</i>
Updates and website maintenance	Communication	On-going	
Add wood chips to the existing nature trails	People Friendly	On-going	<i>Would like to ask Gleeson for donation from cut-down trees.</i>
Hold fundraising opportunities to promote local business & Royal Oak Animal Shelter	Marketing	On-going	

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